

Africa and West Africa; been a Goodwill Ambassador to Korea; and served as a past President of the NAACP San Diego Chapter. Simply by reading his résumé, one realizes that Dr. Manley is a man who is dedicated in every way to his family, to his community, to his religion and to this world. He has worked at the local level, the national level and the international level; with the government, with non-governmental organizations, and at the grassroots.

His work has focused on peace and understanding among the people of the world. He has worked to improve race relations in the San Diego area. He has also worked to promote inter-denominational and inter-religious relations in San Diego and around the world. Indeed, I can think of no better candidate for the Ambassador of Peace Award than Dr. Willie E. Manley.

THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF MARK MEAKER

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mark Meaker for his many years of dedicated service to a number of Northern California fire departments, and also to congratulate him on the occasion of his upcoming retirement.

Mark Meaker began his fire service career in 1971 as a volunteer firefighter with the Arcade Fire District. After a year with Arcade, he went to work with the Citrus Heights Fire District in 1972 and worked his way up through the ranks. Chief Meaker spent eight years as a company officer, six as a battalion chief and five years as an Operations assistant chief for the Sacramento County Fire Protection District. In that period, he played a key role in the development of their ambulance program and was incident commander on many large-scale emergency operations.

Mr. Meaker became Fire Chief of the Elk Grove Community Services District Fire Department in July of 1997. Since becoming Fire Chief, the department has completed construction of three new fire stations, and is scheduled to begin construction on a \$2.7 million fire training facility this spring.

Under Chief Meaker's leadership the Elk Grove CSD Fire Department has dramatically improved upon the rate at which its crews respond to emergency situations. The department now executes an emergency response time of 5 minutes or less 75 percent of the time the crew is called into action. This is a 35 percent increase, up from 40 percent in the years prior to his service. Mr. Meaker sup-

ported the improved education and motivation of line personnel, implemented an aggressive move-up policy along with restrictions on units leaving their cover areas, and aided in the construction of additional fire stations. These improvements, along with Mr. Meaker's dedication and hard work, are responsible for the dramatic improvement in the Elk Grove CSD Fire Department's emergency response time.

After six years of serving as Fire Chief for the Elk Grove Community Service District Fire Department and more than 30 years of dedicated duty to California's fire service, Mark Meaker is retiring. It is my pleasure to honor him today; his hard work and dedication will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO IRONWOOD AARP CHAPTER #556 IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 35TH YEAR OF SERVICE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of senior citizens who have kept their Ironwood American Association of Retired Persons Chapter #556 active and healthy for 35 years in Ironwood, Michigan.

Some of the charter members who were there when AARP Chapter #556 was first organized are still active members. Current Chapter President Ray Maurin presides over meetings the first Monday of every month at the Ironwood Senior Center.

Chapter #556 is involved every year in a workshop that brings Upper Peninsula AARP chapter presidents and others from Michigan AARP together, usually in the Ironwood area, to discuss legislative issues. These workshops are open to the public, are always informative and often lead to enthusiastic political discussions.

On an individual level, members of Chapter #556 this year joined forces with Lake Superior AARP Chapter #1791 to improve home safety for 52 homebound senior citizens by providing and installing home smoke detectors. This program was so popular that Grace Nurkkala, Michigan AARP Chapters Specialist, says she has a list of 25 additional seniors who have asked to be included.

Members of Chapters #556 and #1791 have also recently delivered cheerful, bright coffee mugs and live plants to brighten the lives of 52 seniors who receive home meal delivery through the Ironwood Senior Center.

As they stay active and engaged in political activity, reach out to their neighbors and join together for fellowship and action on issues important to senior citizens, the many mem-

bers of Ironwood AARP Chapter #556 can be proud of their 35 year record of accomplishment on behalf of seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and the other members of this body will join me in extending our heartiest congratulations to Ironwood AARP Chapter #556 on the 35th anniversary of its organization.

VETERANS LOSE ONE OF THEIR BEST FRIENDS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on June 20 the Nation lost a dedicated public servant and its veterans and Armed Forces personnel worldwide a loyal and steadfast champion. Our colleague, former Arizona Congressman Bob Stump, whose legacy is a remarkable record of programs that will benefit active duty service men and women, National Guard and Reserve personnel, and veterans for generations to come, passed away after a lengthy illness.

I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives with this gentleman from 1987 to the day of his departure—some 14 years, the full time for which we both served as members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. In that time, I never encountered a more generous, more courteous, more affable, nor more resolute individual in this body. I am proud to have served as Ranking Democrat under his very capable chairmanship of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and to have worked with someone who so clearly understood and practiced true bipartisanship.

Bob was one of those all-too-rare individuals in elected office—an unassuming, behind-the-scenes workhorse who eschewed self-promotion and who knew his way and how to get there. It didn't take long for one to understand that Bob's kindly manner sometimes belied the firm hand he kept on the helm of leadership in veterans' affairs and armed services, and in the cause of his constituents.

Those who have served in uniform, and those still serving, likely will never know the full measure of what this good man gave them, but they will feel it every day in a broad range of benefits and services that bear his mark. His near half-century of contributions to his country, beginning as a combat medic in the Pacific Theater of World War II, through service in both houses of the Arizona legislature, 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and chairmanship of two committees, will forever be held in the same high regard as the man we came to know and appreciate.